Government has issued instructions to the Registrars of Companies to undertake technical scrutiny of balance sheets of large sized companies. Unlike inspection and investigation, technical scrutiny of balance sheets is not a one-time exercise, but a continuous process and is undertaken after filing of balance sheets by the companies. Techincal scrutiny includes, among other, verification of utilisation of funds.

Opposition to amendment in criminal Procedure Code

97. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prominent lawyers and different Bar Associations have come out strongly against Government's decision to amend the Criminal Procedure Code for empowering Courts to admit statements made by witnesses to the Police; and

(b) if so, the objects and reasons for bringing in the proposed reform and the basis on which the lawyers and bar associations are opposing the change?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems faced by Muslim Women

98. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Muslim women face problem about their maintenance, because as per the Muslim Law the Waqf Board will pay them under certain condition but the Waqf Boards are by and large bankrupt;

(b) whether a two-day session on the "Genuine Problems of Muslim Women and their solution in the light of Shariaha" was recently held in Lucknow in the first week of April; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the decision taken at the meet?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Need to clean electoral process

99. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an apparent need to clean electoral process which should be transparent and free of courrupt practices; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) and (b) The Government is continuously exploring ways and means of bringing about reforms in electoral laws. The Government has before it the recommendations made by different bodies/individuals like the Dinesh Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Election Commission of India, the Law Commission of India, etc. and various proposals based on their recommendations are required to be discussed with the political parties and the appropriate time and concretized. The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process. The Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties on various proposals to carry forward the process of electoral reforms.